

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re application of | : | |
| Patrick Lange, et al. | : | Mail Stop: DD |
| Serial No. | : | |
| | : | Attorney Docket No. 19524 |
| Filed: June 26, 2003 | : | |
| For: A DEVICE FOR ABSORBING | : | |
| ENERGY FROM AN | : | |
| AUTOMOBILE VEHICLE | : | |
| STEERING COLUMN | : | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:


In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97-1.99, applicant presents herewith PTO/SB/08A containing a list of the references which he believes might be material to the Examiner's examination and/or to the patentability of a claim of the application, and which constitutes the most pertinent prior art with which he is acquainted. Copies of these references are submitted herewith, together with a copy of the search report of the French Patent Office.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

The claims of the instant application have been carefully drafted to define the novelty of the instant invention over the teachings of this prior art.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

6/26, 2003



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| Substitute for 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u> | Complete if Known | |
| | Application Number | |
| | Filing Date | June 26, 2003 |
| | First Named Inventor | Patrick Lange, et al. |
| | Group Art Unit | |
| | Examiner Name | |
| | Attorney Docket No. | 19524 |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| | | EP 0 849 141 A1 | 06-24-1998 | Marche | | |
| | | EP 1 127 772 A1 | 08-29-2001 | Badaire, et al. | | |
| | | WO 02/34607 A1 | 05-02-2002 | Heiml | | |
| | | DE 4017995 A1 | 12-13-1990 | Suzuki | | |
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|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 C.F.R. 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, U. S. Department of Commerce, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.